

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16808 120017Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-09 AID-05 HEW-06 CIAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, EG, SPOP
SUBJ: PM SALEM SURPRISES NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING AGENCY
- WITH VISIT

1. CONTINUING HIS PEREGRINATIONS OF RECENT WEEKS, PM SALEM CALLED AT EGYPTIAN FAMILY PLANNING AGENCY JULY 10. PRESS COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS FACT THAT POPULATION PLANNING EFFORT IS RELYING ON 1960 STATISTICS TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY PLANNING STRATEGY. SALEM REPORTEDLY STRESSED TO EMPLOYEES OF AGENCY THAT EFFORT MUST BE STEPPED UP AND BROADENED TO ENCOMPASS ENTIRE POPULATION. PM CALLED FOR NATIONWIDE INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS GEARED TO BOTH EDUCATED AND UNEDUCATED GROUPS SO THAT ALL MIGHT BE AWARE OF AVAILABLE METHODS TO LIMIT REPRODUCTION AND RATIONALE FOR DOING SO.

2. SALEM NOTED, ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS, THAT UNIFIED AND WELL-COORDINATED PROGRAM WAS REQUIRED BECAUSE OF EGYPT'S POPULATION CRISIS. GOE, ACCORDING SALEM, WOULD SPEARHEAD THIS EFFORT, CONCENTRATING ON FOUR AREAS-- OFFERING OF EDUCATION TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS AND CONCURRENTLY IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS OF SUBSISTENCE FAMILIES THROUGH TECHNICAL TRAINING;

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INCREASED PROMOTING OF GOE FAMILY PLANNING AGENCY'S FIELD CAMPAIGNS WITH MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE; RAISING THE MARRIAGE AGE OF WOMEN THROUGH BETTER EDUCATION AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES; AND FINALLY, REDISTRIBUTING HEAVILY CONCENTRATED POPULATION THROUGH RELOCATION SCHEMES. PRESS CHARACTERIZED SALEM'S REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF COORDINATED NATIONAL PLAN AT HIS

NEXT SESSION WITH FAMILY PLANNING AUTHORITIES AS A DEMAND
FOR IMMEDIATE UNITED ACTION ON POPULATION FRONT.

3. COMMENT: SALEM'S CALL ON FAMILY PLANNING AGENCY MAY
POINT UP GOE AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONCERN
OVER EGYPTIAN POPULATION GROWTH AND PERHAPS REFLECTS
INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO TACKLE SENSITIVE ISSUE DIRECTLY.
SINCE CG MEETING IN MID-JUNE POPULATION ISSUE HAS BEEN
COVERED MORE ACTIVELY IN PRESS, MOST NOTABLY IN AL AKHBAR
EDITORIALS BY MOUSSA SABRY. IN LINE WITH APPARENT INTEREST,
EMBASSY/AID IS COMPILING NUMBER OF MATERIALS FOR PRESS USE
IN PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS. WHILE WE NOTE PRESS CRITICISM OF
STATISTICS MAY BE VALID, USAID AND OTHER DONORS ARE
WORKING CLOSELY WITH APPROPRIATE GOE OFFICIALS TO IMPROVE
QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF DATA COLLECTION. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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